

Scud back for Hong Kong

AFP, Sydney

Mark Philippoussis will make his long awaited return to tennis after injury at the Salem Open in Hong Kong next Monday.

The Australian has not played since March because of a recurring knee injury that required surgery last December.

His manager, John McCurdy, said Friday Philippoussis was excited about playing again.

"He's a positive guy and he has always taken a positive attitude and tried to get some positives from it," he said.

"He certainly is very keen about the future and positive about playing his best tennis."

Philippoussis lost last year's Hong Kong Open final to Nicolas Kieffer of Germany.

Philippoussis, 25 in November, has played just 10 matches this year, winning seven, including the Memphis tournament in February.

He has slipped to 87th in the ATP Champions Race after undergoing a second operation to repair cartilage in his left knee.

Schuttler in last eight

AFP, Shanghai

Second seed Rainer Schuttler of Germany saw off his Swiss best mate Ivo Heuberger 6-3, 6-4 Thursday, putting friendship aside to claw into the quarterfinals of the 400,000-dollar Heineken Open.

The win in 75 minutes notched a last-eight place for the highest seed left in the draw after the Tuesday shock exit of Andre Agassi.

When he had a pair of break point chances in the second game, both went astray, prompting him to heave is racket a good 10 metres into the air, catching it skilfully on the way down.

Schuttler finally prevailed after his mate saved a first match point but couldn't get near to a winning overhead smash.

Schuttler will Friday take on Israeli Noam Behr, who ousted Korea's Yong-il Yoon 7-6, 6-7, 6-2.

Unseeded Georgian giant-killer Irakli Labadze shook off the shock of his upset over Agassi, following up with a 6-7, 7-6, 6-2 comeback against American Justin Gimelstob.

The 20-year-old followed up his quarterfinal showing in July in Poland, as he ousted the American, preventing Gimelstob from serving out victory on three occasions.

Meghann advances

AFP, Quebec

Top seed Meghann Shaughnessy cruised into the quarterfinals of the 170,000-dollar WTA Challenge here Thursday but second-seeded Silvia Farina Elia of Italy was ousted.

Shaughnessy, a 22-year-old American, routed Germany's Greta Arn 6-1, 6-3 while Czech Martina Sucha ousted Farina Elia 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 in second round matches.

Third seed Anne Kremer of Luxembourg advanced by beating Colombia's Catalina Castano 6-4, 6-2 and fourth seed Iva Majoli of Croatia eliminated Czech Alena Vaskova 6-3, 6-2. Also advancing were another trio of Americans and eighth seed Jana Nedjedy, who kept the host nation's title hopes going by defeating Maria Vento of Venezuela 6-2, 6-1.

Lleyton levels for Aussies

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Lleyton Hewitt came to Australia's aid with another of his typical fighting comebacks to give his country parity with Sweden after the opening day singles in their Davis Cup tennis semifinal here Friday.

The newly-crowned US Open champion overcame tenacious Jonas Bjorkman to win in four sets after Thomas Johansson had clawed his way back from two sets down to extinguish Pat Rafter in a topsy-turvy five-setter.

World No.3 Hewitt, who almost single-handedly lifted Australia to victory over Brazil in Florianopolis last April, saved his team from the bleak prospect of a 2-0 deficit after the opening exchanges.

Hewitt, who beat Pete Sampras for his first Grand Slam major in New York earlier this month, slugged it out with journeyman Bjorkman, ranked 58, before coming through 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 7-6.

Sweden rocked favourites Australia from the outset when 18th-ranked Johansson duelled with world No.4 Rafter for three hours 42 minutes before prevailing, 3-6, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Johansson broke Rafter's serve five times in the final three sets, with the two-time US Open champion's game unravelling and conceding a total of 16 double-faults.

The winner of the Sydney tie plays France or The Netherlands in the November 30-December 2 final.

Hewitt, under pressure to win after Rafter's collapse, found 29-year-old Bjorkman a gritty opponent and it was only after three hours and 37 minutes and under lights that the feisty Australian ended the Swede's challenge.

Hewitt dropped the opening set and was drawn into a tenacious struggle before he got the better of Bjorkman.

Even when he got to 5-2 in the fourth set and appeared poised for victory, Bjorkman broke back to take the set into a tiebreak.

The Australian, urged on by his compatriots, raced through the tiebreak to hold five match points before Bjorkman found the net to end his brave bid.

Earlier Rafter admitted he made a bad error in letting slip his two sets lead over Johansson and opening



PHOTO: AFP

US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt is ecstatic after defeating Jonas Bjorkman.

the way for a spirited opening by the Swedes, who have won the Davis Cup three times in the last decade.

"He was serving very well in the first two sets but in the third and fourth sets I hit the returns a lot better and he began double-faulting," said Johansson.

"After the third set I could see that Pat was getting tired and I felt good and I tried to keep him away from the net -- I put in more lobs and then I tried my passing shots again, but the key was my returning and serving."

Rafter was despondent at allow-

ing Johansson back into the match after looking on his way to a comfortable victory.

"I let him right back into the match, I've done that a couple of times this year, I've just fallen asleep after two sets and you just can't afford to do that," lamented Rafter.

"It was a really bad error on my behalf. I was flat and predictable and it was a bit of being flat mentally and physically ... I feel disappointed for the whole team and have put extra pressure on Lleyton to win."

Ato vows to fight on

Athletics

INTERNET, undated

Ato Boldon has defended his reputation after it was revealed he failed a drugs test earlier this year.

The Trinidad and Tobago sprinter tested positive for the banned stimulant ephedrine at an event in California last April.

However, the violation was not revealed by officials from the International Association of Athletics Federations until 11 days ago.

Boldon escaped suspension because, under IAAF rules, the infraction is only punishable by a public warning.

In a statement on his official website, the Sydney Olympics 100m silver medalist said: "I have taken full responsibility for this revelation.

"It has embarrassed me somewhat and I'm sure it has disappointed some of my fans.



ATO BOLDON

"Let's be clear on what ephedrine is, however.

This is not a steroid and it's not a hormone. I maintain my stand

against drugs in track and field and I welcome being tested as I have been for 10 years."

Ephedrine can bolster performances during bursts of powerful effort. The drug has been linked to potentially fatal heart problems.

But Boldon said he only ingested the drug while taking a cold remedy because he was ill after a long trip to South Africa earlier in the year.

"Taking a cold medicine and it being found in my system is not a doping offence - a sentiment echoed by the IAAF in their release on this."

He added: "I think the rules need to be changed.

"Too often we see athletes being lumped into the 'doping offence' category for something like this when in fact they are guilty of trying to get themselves well.

"As a fan wrote to me, 'How can the world expect you to be almost super-human on the track and yet you can't even take the remedies us regular humans take if we get sick?'"

Boldon never found his form this season and finished fourth in the 100m at the World Championships in Edmonton last month.

Half-marathon next for Haile

INTERNET, undated

Haile Gebrselassie will make his half-marathon debut at the event's World Championships in Bristol.

A statement released on Wednesday by the Ethiopian Athletic Federation said Gebrselassie would compete at the October 7 event.

Facing Cronje

FROM PAGE 13

Gibbs and Williams were fined and banned for six months each after a UCB hearing, while Cronje was banned for life on the strength of the evidence before the commission.

The commission shed light on an illegal industry said to be worth millions of dollars a year and it led to the International Cricket Council (ICC) forming an Anti-Corruption (ACU) Unit headed by former London Metropolitan Police chief Paul Condon.

That in itself represented a significant shift from the soft-handed approach cricket's authorities had taken towards match-fixing, which had been known of for decades but not dealt with.

The work would be undone if Cronje's ban was lifted, critics say. It would also bring the UCB into direct opposition with the ICC, which also banned Cronje, and could, in theory, lead to South Africa being excluded from international cricket.

Meanwhile, Cronje, who is not expected to attend the court proceedings, is ensconced in his luxury home on Fancourt golf estate in George. He kept a low profile for a year after tumbling into disgrace but during that time reportedly earned 10 million rand (\$1.15 million) from granting media interviews.

Recently, Cronje has made public appearances and delivered speeches at private functions and business breakfasts in what has been seen as a charm offensive in the lead-up to his court case. He has expressed his regret, admitted he erred and said he wants to get on with the rest of his life.

However, Cronje's positive outlook was nowhere to be found when, in July, he reacted with rage to newspaper reports that a forensic audit had discovered he had 19 different banking accounts and once owned eight properties, and that the commission wanted to question him on the matter.

"That money came from the sale of my house in Bloemfontein and I don't know why I have to explain that to anyone," Cronje said in a radio interview when asked about a large deposit into one of his accounts.

Nel nails

FROM PAGE 13

Langeveldt	8	1	24	1
Ntini	8	1	21	2
Ontong	10	2	33	0
Kemp	2	0	8	0

SOUTH AFRICA

Dippenaar c Taibu b Strang	60			
Gibbs c Taibu b Nkala	28			
Rhodes not out	11			
Boucher c Boucher b Brent	24			
Klusener not out	0			
Extras: (lb-2, nb-3, w-3)	8			
Total: (For 30 wks in 20.1 overs)131				
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-98, 3-126				
Did not bat: S Pollock, J Kemp, J Ontong, A Nel, M Ntini, C Langeveldt				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Olonga	3	0	26	0
Mutendera	3	0	25	0
Brent	5	0	32	1
Nkala	5	0	28	1
Strang	4.1	0	18	1

Result: South Africa won by seven wickets.

Perec plans to race in 2003

INTERNET, undated

French triple Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec could compete in the 2003 world championships in Paris, according to reports.

Perec won Olympic gold in the 400 metres at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and the 400 and 200 metres in Atlanta four years later.

But the Guadeloupe-born athlete has not raced since her withdrawal from the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

The French runner travelled to Sydney but mysteriously flew to Paris without competing.

Perec said the pressure was too intense and claimed she had been accosted by an unidentified man in her Sydney hotel room.



MARIE-JOSE PEREC

Since Perec's disappearance her whereabouts have remained unknown.

But Jean-Pierre Nadir, a close friend of Perec, said in French newspaper L'Equipe: "France's best medal hope in Paris in two years is more than ever Marie-Jose Perec.

"Paris 2003 is like a message from the Gods."



PHOTO: AFP

Kim Clijsters of Belgium stretches for a return against Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn.

Tenacious Tamarine tamed

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

French Open finalist Kim Clijsters quashed a courageous challenge by Thai ace Tamarine Tanasugarn Friday to clinch a berth in the semifinals of the Princess Cup tournament.

The top-seeded Belgian -- also a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon and the US Open -- stayed in top form to score a 6-3, 6-1 victory over the Thai seventh seed.

Clijsters will take on third seed Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia in the semifinals, after Dokic powered past American Meilen Tu 6-2, 6-2 in her qualifying match.

Gala Leon Garcia of Spain became the only unseeded player to reach the semis when she eliminated the last local hope, Ai Sugiyama, 6-4, 6-3.

Tamarine, Asia's top player who was ranked at 32 this week, attacked any short balls and charged to the net at every opportunity to hit some volley winners at the front.

But she soon found herself 2-4 down, losing the fifth game of the first set and then struggling to keep her serve throughout the 51-minute match as Clijsters hit back with an array of passing shots.

Tamarine, who saved a double break point at 15-40 with another volley winner before keeping it to trail 3-5, had a chance to break at 30-40 in the following game only to see her backhand return go long.

Clijsters jumped ahead 4-0 in the second set and never gave Tamarine a single break opportunity thereafter.

"I played a good match. I was seeing the ball very well today and enjoying my game very much," said Clijsters. "Everything is going very well and I'm moving very well. I'm very positive about this tournament."

Dokic also stayed on court for 51 minutes, hitting numerous winners with powerful strokes from the baseline. But she allowed Tu three break points in the second game of the second set.

But Dokic then fired two lightning serves, forcing the American to make errors on the first two points, then hit a sizzling forehand to save the third which appeared to be Tu's final chance of the match.

"I held my serve very comfortably. I didn't lose it in the whole match. I think I was solid overall and all around," said 11th ranked Dokic who posted her first career title at the Italian Open in May.

"It was just a match that I just (looked) out for not losing my concentration. Other than that, I was confident to break her and hold my

serve."

As for the up-coming match against Clijsters, Dokic said: "We play similar games, very aggressive, and we just go for a shot. It's just going to be who has a better day tomorrow.

"We always had tough matches. I love to play her. It will be a very good match for me to win."

On Thursday, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario staged off three match points before beating Croatian qualifier Silvija Talaja in the second round.

The fifth-seeded Spaniard crawled back from 0-3 down in the final set tie-breaker and overcame three deciding points against her to hold on for a nerve-wracking 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 victory.

Clijsters, Dokic and fourth seed Sandrine Testud of France safely powered their way through to the quarterfinals.

Clijsters, perfectly recovered from a strained right quadripes she suffered a week before US Open earlier this month, coasted to a lopsided 6-0, 6-3 win over Cara Black of Zimbabwe in 55 minutes.

Testud, fresh from her first title in three years at Hawaii Sunday, won a rain-interrupted match 6-2, 6-7, 6-1 over Japan's Saori Obata.

Sanchez-Vicario fell flat on the centre court as she watched Talaja's forehand go long on her first match point and was relieved to survive her bruising encounter.

Harrison has a plan

Boxing

INTERNET, London

Olympic champion Audley Harrison says his superior technical ability will ensure victory over Derek McCafferty on Saturday.

The bout will be Harrison's second as a professional and he is confident of victory.

"It's the technical aspect, this is going to be the key," said the 29-year-old.

"McCafferty is making the right noises. Physically he can be as fit as he likes, he could have trained for two years, but technique is where I excel.

"Saturday night is strictly business for me. I have to be professional, that's what I'm about.

"There is a joke side to me, but that's not going to be seen on Saturday night."

Harrison is so confident he has

reportedly already finalised a date for his third fight as a professional.

He will fight in Glasgow on



AUDLEY HARRISON

October 20, six days before his 30th birthday, according to Ceefax.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Egyptian sun god	DOWN	22 Borscht base
1 Mimicked invader	41 Well-known info search engine	1 Priestly vestments	23 Leading man
5 Cornfield	43 Hero filler	2 Versifier	3 Eternally
9 Suitcase	47 Khan title	4 Explain a word	24 Mandible
12 Valentine word	48 St. Bernard of screen	5 Confab	25 Lemieux milieu
13 Headlight?	51 Cath. or Prot.	6 Scoundrel	26 Saloon
14 Ostrich's kin	52 Tra trail	7 Bullring cheer	27 Pennant
15 Tower of London figure	53 Friar	8 The pits	29 One-kind link
17 Many a millennium	54 First St.	9 Gum name	30 Buzz Lightyear, e.g.
18 Unyielding	55 Green land	10 Beyond control	35 Pair
19 "Awakenings" author	56 Tackles' team-mates	11 Skeet equipment	37 Biblical dancer
21 Negative		16 The "Name of the Rose" author	39 Aristocratic
22 A tray full of cookies		20 Explosive from Cathy	40 Encouraging word?
24 Be in harmony			41 Play area
27 Nourished			42 Baseball legend
28 Difficulty			43 Ollie's cohort
31 Expert			44 Bard's river
32 Meadow			45 Make like new
33 Alien craft			46 Cartoonist's wares
34 Gardner's			49 Corn spike

Solution time: 25 mins.

GIATO	CHIT	AFAR
ARIAM	LAD	FIDO
FIRESIDE	FRIED	
FLATIRON	SELENE	
AFT	TOES	
RAIF	AOK	SCALD
EPITO	NIL	KLEE
STRAP	MED	EOIN
ERIAL	BOG	
DAIRIE	APPOGEE	
ELLE	FIREBIRD	
ABOUT	TIKO	ALAN
RAGS	YEN	DATA

Yesterday's answer 5-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
18							19	20			
			21			22	23				
24	25	26			27			28	29	30	
31					32				33		
34			35		36			37			
			38		39			40			
41	42						43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50					
51				52				53			
54				55				56			

5-10 CRYPTOQUIP

V Y O G H V H S E M H C J P A
B Y H P H S E R M Y B G V O Y S R Y V
E J R N K V H J K C G S A

M H R R M Y V J J N
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE IN STORM CELLARS ARE UNDER THE WEATHER.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals I

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.